



**GALENA RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN
FIRST KICKOFF STAKEHOLDER MEETING**

Meeting Summary

Date: June 3, 2009

Time: 3:00 p.m. Central Time

Location: LaPorte County SWCD, 100 Legacy Plaza West, LaPorte, Indiana 46350

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Organization
Ken Purze	LaPorte Co. Drainage Board
Elizabeth McCloskey	USFWS
Peg Kohring	Conservation Fund
Tom Anderson	Save the Dunes
June Kirchgatter	Property owner
Rick Knoll	Property owner
Steve Barker	Shirley Heinz Land Trust
Jenny Orsburn	Indiana DNR
Gwen White	Indiana DNR
Joe Exl	Indiana DNR
Steve West	IDEM
Nicole Messacar	LaPorte Co. SWCD
Shannon Donley	Baetis Environmental Services

Summary:	Actions
<p>The meeting was called to order at 3:10. Introductions were made. Donley provided an overview of the agenda. The agenda for the meeting called for the following: 1) identify major concerns for the watershed, 2) develop a clear, practical vision statement, 3) develop measurable goals, and 4) discuss USFWS grant opportunity.</p>	

Summary:	Actions
<p><u>Identify Major Concerns for the Watershed</u></p> <p>Donley summarized the major concerns brought up at the April 29th public meeting. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about zoning and development within the watershed. • The difficulties in identifying the source(s) of E. coli. • Concerns over point source discharges. • Springfield Fen Nature Preserve (Galena River headwaters) was found recently by local high school students to be filled with trash/debris. <p>There was discussion by several members of the Steering Committee regarding the trash at Springfield Fen Nature Preserve. The Indiana DNR regularly cleans up the area; DNR staff were out recently so the trash should have been removed.</p> <p>Each member of the Steering Committee was asked to voice a major concern that they had for the watershed. This initial list included the following concerns: 1) Development – Rapid Pace/Badly Planned, 2) Degraded septic systems at older trailer courts, 3) Water from Indiana that is swimmable, drinkable, and fishable, 4) Identification of sources of <i>E. coli</i>, 5) Keep development density low, 6) Protect high quality habitat, 7) Protect morainal forest and bogs, 7) Need to understand system better, 8) Michigan moving faster than Indiana to protect watershed/work with Michigan because they have good plan in place, and 9) Required inspection of septic systems,</p> <p>Donley mentioned that there are no agricultural related concerns. Barker stated that there is an interest in the rural heritage of the area and sustainable agriculture. A final concern was brought up: 10) Protecting for agricultural use (primarily livestock, equestrian use).</p> <p>Exl brought up point-of-sale septic inspections. They are currently not required. Khoring told the group that the point-of-sale inspections are just getting started on the Michigan side of the watershed.</p> <p>Members were asked to place an ‘X’ by their top three concerns. Concerns that were similar were combined. Results were tallied and four primary concerns were identified for the watershed. The final concerns are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Rapid pace of development – badly planned, high density will degrade watershed</i> 2) <i>Reducing E. coli bacteria</i> 3) <i>Protection of high quality habitat</i> 4) <i>Maintain water source for agricultural use (primarily livestock, equestrian use)</i> 	

Summary:	Actions
<p><u>Develop Vision Statement</u></p> <p>Ms. Donley handed out examples of vision statements and goals from other watershed management plans. The group discussed likes and dislikes of the examples. Messacar did not want to include a year of completion since it sets unrealistic standards. Khoring and Anderson recommended the inclusion of economic viability language. Other comments were made. Using the examples, the group began creating a vision statement that incorporated each of the four concerns listed above. Due to time constraints, the vision statement was not completed. It was agreed by the group that the vision statement would be ‘homework’; each member would continue developing the vision statement and would send his/her ideas to Nicole Messacar prior to the next Steering Committee meeting on July 1, 2009.</p>	<p>Steering committee members to continue developing vision statement. Email ideas to Nicole Messacar prior to July 1 meeting.</p>
<p><u>Develop Measureable Goals</u></p> <p>The group focused on development of goals for the watershed. Provided below are the draft goals that were developed. It was agreed that the goals still need work and additional goals may be developed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>The water quality standard for E. coli will be met or surpassed.</i> 2) <i>The LaPorte County Master Plan will incorporate practices consistent with recommendations from the Galena River Watershed Management Plan.</i> 3) <i>The amount of protected land in the watershed will be increased from _____ acres to _____ acres.</i> 4) <i>The amount of agricultural land managed using conservation practices will be increased from _____ acres to _____ acres.</i> 5) <i>A public education program will be implemented to educate the public on the definition of a watershed and morainal forest, and to explain why watersheds are important, and how human actions can affect the watershed health.</i> <p>There was considerable discussion on the need to engage the people working on the County rezoning so that the LaPorte County Master Plan will be consistent with the Galena River Watershed Management Plan. Williams Creek is the consulting firm hired by LaPorte County to provide environmental and review services on the updated zoning ordinances. The Steering Committee needs to contact the person at Williams Creek who is working closely with the County Zoning Department.</p> <p>There was discussion on the use of GIS to calculate acreages and meet several of the goals. It was mentioned that Melissa Mitchell, GIS coordinator for LaPorte County, may be able to provide, or could develop, some of the data needed.</p>	<p>After July, contact project manager or other person at Williams Creek responsible for helping County with rezoning.</p>

Summary:	Actions
<p><u>USFWS Grant Opportunity</u></p> <p>Messacar informed the group about a USFWS grant opportunity to control invasive species. The group discussed different grants that are available, particularly grants offered through the National Wildlife Federation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It was agreed that Donley will begin to compile grant opportunities and deadlines into a calendar. Orsburn and Barker to email USFWS and NWF grant opportunities that they are aware of to Donley.</p>	<p>Jenny Orsburn and Steve Barker to email grant opportunities to Shannon Donley.</p>
<p><u>Other</u></p> <p>Steve West informed the group that the TMDL public meeting was scheduled for July 14, 2009 at Lalumiere School.</p>	
<p>Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm</p>	